

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An optical element fixing structure, characterized in that the optical element fixing structure is an optical element fixing structure to fix an optical element such as a crystal which comprises~~ comprising:

an optical element having a front surface, a back surface spaced from the front surface such that an element thickness is at least partially defined therebetween, an outer peripheral edge extending between the front and back surfaces, and at least one slit spaced inwardly from the outer peripheral edge and outwardly of a working portion of the optical element that is formed inwardly of the at least one slit such that a fixing portion of the optical element is formed between the at least one slit and the outer peripheral edge, the at least one slit extending into the optical element in an approximate direction of the element thickness from along one of the front and back surfaces to a depth that is less than the element thickness such that the working portion and the fixing portion remain at least partially connected with one another; and,

an optical element holder to fix and mount the optical element, in that the optical element has one or multiple slits in the thickness direction in an outer edge part thereof (which is present on the optical element but outside a working surface of the optical element and can be used as a portion to fix the optical element to the optical element holder; this applies also in the following), and in that the optical element holder has including an inner circumferential surface and depressing means to fix for fixing the optical element by depressing at least one of the front surface and the back surface of the optical element along the fixing portion outside the at least one slit such that an area of the other one of the front surface and the back surface outside the at least one slit is fixed against the inner circumferential surface and thereby reducing the propagation of depression-induced strain in the working portion of the optical element.

2. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 1, characterized in that the depressing means depresses only one surface, which is one of the back surface and the front surface of the optical element.

3. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 1, characterized in that the depressing means ~~is~~ includes an elastic body attached to the optical element holder.
4. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 1, characterized in that the planer shape of the optical element is any of a rectangle, a circle, an ellipse and a polygon, ~~such as a triangle, a parallelogram and a hexagon.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 1, characterized in that the depth of the at least one slit ~~has a depth~~ is sufficient for preventing the propagation of ~~only~~ depression strain of the optical element to the working surface of the optical element.
6. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 5, characterized in that the depth of the at least one slit ~~has a depth which~~ is not less than half the thickness of the optical element.
7. (Withdrawn) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 5, characterized in that the slit is provided in both of the front surface and the back surface of the optical element.
8. (Withdrawn) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 7, characterized in that the slit is provided alternately on the front surface and back surface of the optical element.
9. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the at least one slit is a linear structure extends between opposing ends with at least one end ~~of which is being open to a side surface of the optical element (which surface is the surface which connects the front surface and the back surface together; this applies also in the following)~~ the outer peripheral edge of the optical element.

10. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 9, characterized in that the optical element is in the shape of a rectangle and in that ~~both of the opposing ends of the slits at least one slit are provided in at least two locations of open to the outer peripheral edge part of the optical element, one slit for each location.~~
11. (Withdrawn) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 9, characterized in that the optical element is in the shape of a rectangle and in that the slits are provided in at least two locations of the outer edge part of the optical element, multiple slits for each location.
12. (Withdrawn) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 5, characterized in that the slit is in the shape of a circuit or a convolution, such as a circle and a rectangle.
13. (Withdrawn) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 12, characterized in that the optical element is in the shape of a circle or an ellipse.
14. (Previously Presented) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 2, characterized in that the elastic body is a plate spring.
15. (Currently Amended) The optical element fixing structure according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that ~~further comprising a base that includes opposing front and back surfaces,~~ the elastic body is provided on a the front surface of a the base for fixing the elastic body, ~~in that the base for fixing the elastic body is provided in is supported on a bottom part of the optical element holder with,~~ and in that ~~on the back surface of the base for fixing the elastic body there is provided~~ operatively engaging adjusting means, ~~which is capable of~~ for adjusting the depression by the elastic body by up-and-down movements of the base relative to the inner circumferential surface for fixing the elastic body, ~~in such a manner as to pierce through the optical element holder.~~

16. (Withdrawn) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 15, characterized in that the adjusting means is an adjusting screw and is provided on the back side of the elastic body.
17. (Previously Presented) The optical element fixing structure according to claim 1, characterized in that the optical element is a crystal for X-ray monochrometer.
18. (Withdrawn) An optical element fixing body, characterized in that the optical element fixing body has the optical element fixing structure according to claim 1.
19. (Withdrawn) An optical element, characterized in that the optical element can constitute the optical element fixing body according to claim 18.
20. (Withdrawn) An optical element holder, characterized in that the optical element holder can constitute the optical element fixing body according to claim 18.